

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bearing component masking unit comprising:
 - a housing having an inner surface;
 - a first fixture attached to a first end of the housing;
 - a seal positioned within the first end of the housing and sized to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing;
 - a plurality of seals adapted to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing and adapted to cover sidewall surfaces of respective additional bearing components when positioned within the housing;
 - a second fixture positioned within a second end of the housing;
 - a seal positioned within the second end of the housing and sized to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing; and
 - a means for drawing the first fixture toward the second fixture.
2. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1, first fixture is moveably positioned within the housing.
3. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1, wherein the means for drawing the first fixture toward the second fixture includes a threaded rod and a nut.
4. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of seals are adapted to cover the sidewall surfaces of bearing components during a coating process.

5. The bearing component masking unit of claim 4, wherein the bearing components are sleeve bearing components.
6. The bearing component masking unit of claim 4, wherein the plurality of seals are adapted to seal the outer surfaces of the bearing components during a coating process.
7. The bearing component masking unit of claim 6, wherein the bearing components are sleeve bearing components.
8. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1 further including a lift.
9. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of seals are comprised of nitrile.
10. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of seals are annular.
11. The bearing component masking unit of claim 1, wherein the plurality of seals have an inner diameter that is less than an inner diameter of the respective bearing components.
12. The bearing component masking unit of claim 10, wherein the respective bearing components are sleeve bearings.
13. A bearing component masking unit comprising:
 - a housing having an inner surface and having a bottom end;
 - a bearing component positioned within the housing above the bottom end of the housing;
 - a first seal positioned within the housing between the bottom end of the housing and the bearing component, the first seal sized to provide a seal

against the inner surface of the housing and to cover a first sidewall surface of the bearing component;

a top end of the housing positioned opposite the bottom end;

a second seal positioned within the housing between the bearing component and the top end of the housing, the second seal sized to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing and to cover a second sidewall surface of the bearing component.

14. The bearing component masking unit of claim 13, wherein the bearing component is a sleeve bearing.

15. The bearing component masking unit of claim 13, further including an additional bearing component positioned within the housing above the bearing component; and

a third seal positioned between the additional bearing component at the top end of the housing, the third seal sized to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing and to cover a sidewall surface of the additional bearing component.

16. The bearing component masking unit of claim 13, further including one or

more additional bearing components positioned within the housing; and

one or more additional seals positioned between adjacent sidewalls of the additional bearing components, the one or more additional seals sized to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing.

17. The bearing component masking unit of claim 16, wherein the one or more additional bearing components are sleeve bearings.
18. The bearing component masking unit of claim 15, further including a force generator to draw the bottom end of the housing and the top end of the housing toward each other to help the sealing effect of the seals.
19. The bearing component masking unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of additional seals cover the sidewall surfaces of the bearing components during a coating process.
20. The bearing component masking unit of claim 19, wherein the bearing components are sleeve bearing components.
21. The bearing component masking unit of claim 19, wherein the plurality of seals are adapted to seal the outer surfaces of the bearing components during a coating process.
22. The bearing component masking unit of claim 19, wherein the bearing components are sleeve bearing components.
23. The bearing component masking unit of claim 13, further including a means for pushing the first end of the housing towards the second end.
24. The bearing component masking unit of claim 16 further including a means for pushing the first end of the housing towards the second end.
25. The bearing component masking unit of claim 13, wherein the seals are comprised of nitrile.
26. The bearing component masking unit of claim 16, wherein the plurality of seals are annular.

27. The bearing component masking unit of claim 16, wherein the plurality of seals have an inner diameter that is less than an inner diameter of the respective bearing components.
28. The bearing component masking unit of claim 10, wherein the respective bearing components are sleeve bearings.
29. A method of coating selected portions of a bearing component, comprising the steps of:
- positioning a first bearing component within a housing, the housing having a bottom end and having a first seal between the bottom end of the housing and the bearing component; the first seal sized to provide a seal against an inner surface of the housing and covering a first sidewall of the first bearing component;
 - positioning a second seal above a second sidewall of the bearing component, the second seal sized to provide a seal against an inner surface of the housing and covering the second sidewall of the first bearing component;
 - compressing the seals such that the first and second sidewalls and an outer surface of the bearing component are sealed from an inner portion of the housing;
 - applying a coating to an inner surface of the bearing component.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps, prior to the compressing step, of:

positioning one or more additional bearing components having sidewalls within the housing;

positioning one or more additional seals between the sidewalls of the one or more additional bearing components, the one or more additional seals sized to provide a seal against the inner surface of the housing.

31. ~~A method of coating selected portions of a bearing component, comprising the steps of:~~

positioning a first bearing component within a housing, the housing having a bottom end and having a first seal between the bottom end of the housing and the bearing component; the first seal sized to provide a seal against a first sidewall of the first bearing component;

positioning a second seal above a second sidewall of the bearing component, the second seal sized to provide a seal against the second sidewall of the first bearing component;

compressing the seals such that a seal is provided between the first and second sidewalls of the bearing component;

applying a coating to an inner surface and an outer surface of the bearing component.